

among which the principal is probably the unequal distribution of discoveries of comets in the northern and southern hemispheres of the Earth.

Mr. Carrington joined our Society on March 14, 1851, and he served as one of the Honorary Secretaries from February 1857 to February 1862, and during this period was indefatigable in his activity in the service of the Society. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society, to which he was elected on June 7, 1860. In 1856 he made a visit to the Continent, and gave an interesting report on the condition of the Observatories at Bonn, Bilk, Göttingen, Gotha, Leipzig, Halle, Dessau, Berlin, Hamburg, and Altona. This visit served to draw attention to Heinrich Schwabe's labours, and in the following year Mr. Carrington was commissioned to transmit the medal of our Society to the aged Astronomer of Dessau for his long-continued labours, which had resulted in showing the eleven-year periodicity of Sun-spots.

In 1865 Mr. Carrington was attacked by severe illness, from which he never completely recovered; and though his love for astronomy remained, his active connection with our Society ceased. After disposing of the brewery, he retired to a lonely spot at Churt, near Farnham, in Surrey, where he built an observatory on the top of a detached conical hill which rises abruptly to a height of some 60 feet from the surrounding country and is known as the Middle Devil's Jump. Here he erected some large instruments, which are described in the 30th volume of the *Monthly Notices*; and at his house near the Observatory, on the 27th November 1875, he died, from the rupture of a blood-vessel on the brain. He has left our Society a legacy of £2000.

MURRAY GLADSTONE was the fifth son of Robert Gladstone, Esq., of Liverpool, where he was born on the 14th of February, 1816. He was educated at the Royal Institution, Liverpool, where he acquired some distinction as a scholar. As he showed a very decided turn for drawing and machinery, his father applied to the late George Stephenson to take him under his care. This introduction to the great railway engineer led Mr. Gladstone to follow this profession for several years. He was for some time employed in making surveys for railways, as well as in executing many works connected with them. Amongst others, the Viaduct over the river Weaver on the Chester and Crewe Railway was built under his immediate superintendence, and it remains a monument of his constructive ability. An advantageous opening having presented itself in the East India house of Ogilvy, Gillanden, & Co., with which his family was already connected, Mr. Gladstone gave up his profession as an engineer for the more lucrative pursuits of commerce. He went to Calcutta, where he remained for several years, and by his talents acquired a foremost place among the merchants of that city. Soon after his return to England he established the firm of Gladstone, Latham,

Co., in Manchester, as a branch of Ogilvy & Co., and he resided until quite recently at Broughton near that city. There he constructed an observatory, in which much of his leisure time was spent; and on leaving Manchester for Penmaenmawr, North Wales, where he had built a country house, he erected at this new residence a still larger observatory, with all the latest astronomical appliances. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on May 11, 1860. In consequence of failing health during the last year or two, Mr. Gladstone was contemplating an early retirement from business, in which he never ceased to take an active interest, when, on the evening of August 23, 1875, while walking along the shore at Penmaenmawr, returning home from fishing, he was seized with a fit or some affection of the heart, and died suddenly in the sixtieth year of his age, deeply mourned by his numerous friends and acquaintances. He has left a widow, daughter of Mr. Hinde, of Lancaster, and five children.

Lieut.-Colonel JOHN JONES was born at Bath in the year 1800. He belonged to a military family, his father and grandfather having served in the army, the former in the Life Guards. He received his earlier education in France, and in 1819 he proceeded to India as a cadet. Being posted to the 46th Regiment of Native Infantry, he accompanied his regiment to Assam in April 1823, and was afterwards most actively and prominently engaged during the whole of the Burmese War, receiving a medal for general service for the conquest of Assam, and a clasp for Ava. Colonel (then Captain) Jones also served in many parts of the Bengal Presidency. He held the appointment of Quartermaster-General, and had charge of the Intelligence and Secret Service Department, for which service he received the special thanks of the Governor-General, Lord Amherst, and of his Commander-in-Chief, General Richardson.

On the termination of hostilities, in 1826, Captain Jones was selected to survey the newly conquered province of Assam and its dependencies, especially the boundary line along the eastern Himalaya range, extending 450 miles in length, and was appointed the British Commissioner for that purpose. In consequence, however, of the large number of astronomical observations necessary for the survey, and of the great exposure to the glare of the snowy range along the Himalaya Mountains, his eyes became so affected that he was obliged to return to England to consult an oculist, and eventually this weakness of sight led to his retirement from the service. In consideration of his eminent services, the Directors of the East India Company unanimously granted to him the pension of his rank as captain.

On his return from India Colonel Jones resided for some time in Wales, and afterwards at Adsett Court, near Gloucester, where he erected a small observatory, with a revolving dome, in which was mounted the transit instrument which had done him

such good service in the Indian Survey, and a sidereal clock with a mercurial pendulum. He also had a Gregorian reflector mounted on a Varley stand. His observations were chiefly meridional, and were made with the accuracy of a skilled observer. He had also in his possession some valuable repeating instruments, in the use of which he had great experience.

In 1873 Colonel Jones left Adsett Court for Cheltenham, where he had at one time formerly resided, but owing partly to his declining health, and partly to the unfavourable position of his house for astronomical observations, his instruments remained unmounted. In the spring of 1875, after suffering from bronchitis, he went to Torquay, in the hope of obtaining some restoration of his health. Here he died on April 7, 1875, having been a Fellow of this Society nearly forty years, his election dating on May 8, 1835.

The Right Hon. Sir EDWARD RYAN was born on the 28th of August 1793. His early education was received at a private school, and in the autumn of 1810 he matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was the friend and contemporary of Sir John Herschel, Mr. Babbage, and Dr. Peacock. Graduating in 1814, he directed his attention to the study of law, and in 1817 was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, where he pursued his profession with great success. At this time his personal acquaintance with some of the founders of the Royal Astronomical Society, naturally created in his mind an interest in scientific pursuits, and particularly in Astronomy, although it is not known that he ever undertook anything in the way of scientific investigation. His acquaintance with such men as Herschel, Babbage, and other astronomers led him to join this Society soon after its foundation, his election dating so far back as February 1820. Mr. Ryan's acuteness as a lawyer speedily attracted the attention of the Government, and in 1826 he accepted the office of Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, receiving at the time the honour of knighthood. In 1833 he was promoted to the Chief Justiceship of that Presidency. During his residence in Calcutta his genial nature was much appreciated by the European residents, and his pleasant and hospitable home in Garden Reach was always open to all new arrivals from England, or to welcome the faces of old friends. It has been remarked that "the genial Chief Justice was the life and soul of society in Calcutta." Sir Edward retained the office of Chief Justice till January 1843, when he permanently returned to England. Soon after his arrival home he was sworn in a Privy Councillor, so that the country might have the benefit of his experience in Indian Appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, a duty which he discharged for many years. In 1851 he received the appointment of Assistant-Controller of the Exchequer, an office which he held till 1862.

The country has had the benefit of Sir E. Ryan's services down to the end of his long life, and it may truly be said that he died in harness. When the question of filling the junior offices of the Civil Service by competition, rather than by patronage, was decided by the establishment of the Civil Service Commission, Sir Edward's administrative abilities caused him to be selected to superintend the experiment, and consequently, by an Order in Council dated May 21, 1855, he was named first Commissioner. The office being an unpaid one, he still retained the Assistant-Controllorship of the Exchequer till 1862, in which year the Commission was established on a permanent footing. Under the presidency of Sir E. Ryan, the duties of the Commission have been gradually increasing yearly, the mere test examination being followed by limited competition, to be soon succeeded by open competition as at present. During the twenty years that Sir Edward was at the head of this Commission, he was its guiding spirit, giving to it his time and thoughts with a tact and sagacity rarely surpassed in the public service. In addition to his permanent duties, Government availed themselves of Sir Edward's advice and experience as a Railway Commissioner, in 1846, and in other ways. He also took a great interest in the prosperity of the University of London, of which he was a member of the Senate, and for a short period after the death of Mr. Grote, he served as Vice-Chancellor. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1860.

Sir Edward married, in 1814, Louisa, daughter of William Whitmore, Esq., of Dudmaston, Shropshire. His death took place at Dover, where he had just gone for his vacation, on the night of Sunday, August 22, 1875, after an illness of four days, and within a week of completing his 82nd year. He retained his consciousness and vigour of intellect to the end. His kindly face and stately figure will long be missed, not only by his official colleagues, but also by society generally, in which he has always been much esteemed.

WILLIAM SELWYN,* D.D., Canon of Ely, and Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, was born in 1806, and was the eldest of three sons, all of them distinguished.

After leaving Eton, he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1824, and soon began to gather the laurels of University honours. For three years successively he carried off Sir W. Browne's medal for the best Greek Ode; and in one of these years, 1826, he gained all the Browne Medals, a triumph which has, it is said, been only achieved three times in the course of a century. In this same year he also carried off the Craven

* For much of the matter in this notice, the compiler begs to tender his acknowledgments to the author of the Johnian magazine *The Eagle*.